DECEMBER 1963

TOC H JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT 15 TRINITY SQUARE, LONDON, EC3

NINEPENCE

'The King and I'

Special performance at the Scala Theatre, London, for Toc H funds by the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society, on Tuesday, February 11, 1964. Advance enquiries for party bookings should be made to Ken Rogers, Bursar, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

Toc H Diaries

The 1964 diaries, containing much Toc H and general information, are selling well and members are advised to place their orders before stocks run out. The cost is 4s. 6d., or fitted with pencil 5s. post free, from Toc H Publications Dept.

Toc H Padres' Scarves

Any Padre holding office in an Area, District or Branch of Toc H is entitled to wear the Toc H Padre's Scarf "on Toc H occasions". This is the ordinary black preaching scarf bearing on one side of the cloth at each end the Toc H emblem of the Double Cross in gold silk. The emblems, machine woven, price 13s. 4d. a pair, can be obtained from Headquarters. They would make a fitting Christmas present for any duly appointed Padre who does not possess this distinctive mark.

Advertisers

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen.

DECEMBER 1963

FORTY-FIRST YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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COVER PICTURE : DEEP AND CRISP AND EVEN
A snow scene at Dor Knap — *Photograph by George Atkinson*

Wishing a Joyous Christmas to all our Readers

EDITORIAL OFFICE · TOC H, 15 TRINITY SQ
LONDON EC3 · TELEPHONE ROYAL 0472

Vice-Patron

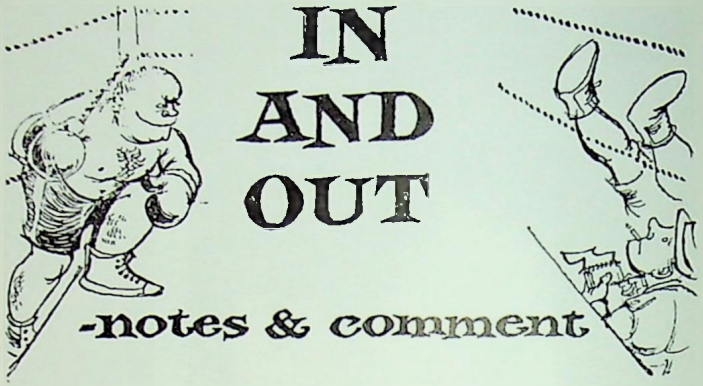
With very great pleasure we announce that Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, has approved the appointment of the Hon. ANGUS OGILVY as Vice-Patron of Toc H. Mr. Ogilvy is a young man of outstanding gifts and his identification with the Family of Toc H should give tremendous encouragement to our younger members everywhere. His marriage to Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra, last April, was an occasion that warmed the hearts of people in all parts of the world.

Mr. Ogilvy, second son of the Earl of Airlie, is thirty-five. He started his National Service in the ranks of the Scots Guards and was later commissioned. Afterwards he went to Oxford, where he graduated in politics, philosophy and economics, and thence into commerce in the City of London.

Seeing that he is a hard-working business man during the week his time available is bound to be severely limited, but in due course Mr. Ogilvy hopes to acquire a good working knowledge of Toc H, its problems and its hopes. Such engagements as are planned will be arranged through Headquarters, and Branches will readily appreciate that they should not attempt to correspond with him direct. In that occasionally he has to travel abroad Mr. Ogilvy hopes also to see something of the work of Toc H overseas.

Cecil Beaton

THE HON. ANGUS OGILVY



THE GRIEVOUS death of President KENNEDY is a reminder that those who follow the path of duty sometimes find it leading on to suffering and sacrifice. The best may suffer at the hands of the worst but in the end it is good which triumphs because it is of God and is immortal. Brought up to acknowledge our debt to the Elder Brethren, Toc H knows that the greatest tribute to men of faith who died with their work unfinished is to thank God for their example and to enter into their labours.

John Kennedy

THIS ISSUE of the JOURNAL is the last to be printed by Messrs. Marshall, Davenport and next month a new printing firm will be taking us in hand. This ends a JOURNAL connection which goes back to the nineteen-twenties, beginning with the large, fat, quarto-sized 'Yellow Perils', then the thin wartime economy-size, and, since the last war, the present pocket-size edition. We thank our friends at Messrs. Marshalls for a friendship lasting nigh on forty years and are glad that even now the separation will not be total.

Our Printers

HERE IS a chance of photographic fame. Our original picture postcard of Dor Knap, taken from a snapshot by John Jans of Australia, has had a tremendous sale and now, in response to general demand, we are proposing to have a selection of up to six different postcards. Up and down the country there must be hundreds of members who have taken really first-class black-and-white photographs of Dor Knap. Some may be

Dor Knap Photographs

scenic studies, others may be natural, unposed, snapshots of members at work about the place. Whatever they are, provided they are of excellent definition, Alec Churcher at Headquarters will be grateful to have a sight of them for a few days.

Broadcast Knowledge

DURING THE Autumn and Winter the BBC will be using sound radio and television for a tremendous programme of adult education. Some of the series of lectures seem unlikely to have direct appeal to our Branches, but others, such as for example, "Human needs and social order", "Taking Issue" and "An expanding population" will surely deal with issues that are right up our street. Doubtless the broadcast times may not always be convenient, but with some exercise of ingenuity it should be possible for Branches to profit. The full BBC syllabus, *Outlook*, may be obtained from 35 Marylebone High Street, London, W.1.

Lord Nathan, P.C.

BY THE DEATH of Lord NATHAN at the age of 74, Tubby has lost an old schoolfellow, a lifelong friend and counsellor. Well deserved public tribute has been paid to this great lawyer and public servant. In the recently published book of Tubby's sermons, *To Conquer Hate*, the foreword is by Lord Nathan himself. How appropriate that a book of sermons by an Anglican, printed by the Methodists and reviewed on page 388 by a Congregationalist, should have a charming introduction by this distinguished member of the Jewish community. Few men have done more than Lord Nathan in the godly cause of justice and brotherhood.

Quick on the Draw

BLESSED is the Branch that has a good set of officers. More blessed still if it also rejoices in such valued characters as a pianist or an unlicensed poet. Another asset is the free-lance cartoonist. The Branch notice board becomes the first port of call for every member as he arrives. The humour is all the more enjoyable for being home made. In September we published a strip cartoon by Ray Banks, a member in Sunderland, a fitter by trade. This was one of his many sketches which have 'captured' the ordinary experiences of Branch membership. How many Branches, we wonder, have tried to discover buried artistic genius amongst their own members? It might be worth using one of the Branch meetings to find out.

Mark XVIII Expedition Group

TONY NORMAN

"WHEN CAN we start canoeing?" This was the most often repeated question at a 'post-mortem' held after a recent Expedition Group week-end camp. Unfortunately, this query could not be answered, as the purchase of canoes is a financial impossibility at present. However, in spite of shortage of funds, the Expedition Group is now well under way.

The story begins at a house meeting held in Oct. 1962 at Mark XVIII, Newcastle. It was at this meeting that the idea of the project was born; born as a result of a series of discussions on the line to follow with our new job programme. The job had to involve everybody in the Mark, had to be a challenge to those taking part, and above all had to fill an urgent need in the local community. The scheme which was eventually decided upon involved the establishment and running of a series of courses in outdoor activities for boys, to include camping, fell-walking, map and compass usage, canoeing, and sailing.

By the beginning of November the details of the plan were finalised and an appeal was launched for £1,500 to enable the necessary equipment to be purchased. Over 300 personal letters were written to local firms, individuals, and trusts; the local press produced a couple of articles; and a great deal of personal canvassing was carried out. Christmas 1962 saw the first £100 in the bank. The money was not coming in as fast as we needed, so the Minister of Education was approached through our local M.P., and we eventually negotiated a 50 per cent grant for some

of the equipment. The total of £900 was reached in April of this year, and the camping equipment, Land Rover, and other items were immediately ordered.

A party in the Land Rover at Loch Eil

The instructors for the courses are all Marksmen, aged between 18 and 26. Three of them spent their holidays at Loch Eil this summer as instructors. As some potential instructors have had little or no previous experience of this type of work great care is taken to see that adequate training is given before a new instructor takes charge of a group of boys. The training of instructors began in January and had become fairly intensive by May, when the courses commenced.

The position now is that a regular routine has been developed, not only for the actual week-end expeditions, but also for the maintenance of equipment, preparation of food, and the many other small but vitally important jobs. Every Marksman helps in some way, depending on his talents and available time. There are seven instructors, and three groups of eight boys each. A group is normally

accompanied by two instructors. Each group is taken out for one in every six week-ends, thus there is one group taking part every second week-end.

A typical programme

It might be of interest at this stage to outline a typical week-end programme for an expedition. About ten days before, every boy concerned has received a postcard reminding him of the date and time on which we expect him to come. On the Thursday evening all the equipment will have been sorted out and arranged in piles ready for the boys to pack their rucksacks as soon as they arrive. The food will have been bought, split up into the necessary portions, and packed in plastic containers. On the Friday evening at about 6.45 p.m. the boys start to arrive at the Mark; by 7.15 all the rucksacks are packed and loaded in the Land Rover. After a final check the party is ready to move off. The destination may be the Lake District, the Cheviots, the Yorkshire dales, or some equally rugged area. The camping site is reached at some time between 10 and 11 p.m., whereupon the tents are pitched in the dark, a hot drink is made, and so to bed.

After a good breakfast on the Saturday morning, the boys are briefed on the day's programme. A hike is planned over the hills, with check points every few miles, indicated by map references. A quick revision of map-reading techniques, and the party sets off. Apart from a light lunch of biscuits, dates, chocolate and boiled sweets, the boys are carrying whistles, first-aid kits, maps, compasses, water-bottles, and warm clothing. Safety measures are stressed at all times and every precaution is taken to prevent accidents.

The party returns in the early evening, exhausted but happy. Feet are bathed in the cold stream, a big meal is prepared, then depending on the time, weather and position of the site there may be a trip to the nearest village, or a discussion may be started, or an early night may be voted for.

Sunday's programme has to be rather shorter, as the tents have to be taken down and all the gear packed away in time for the start home around 4 p.m. The actual hike on Sunday will probably be fairly short, but will include some local features of interest, and often the chance to practise map-reading. The group returns to the Mark about 8 p.m. on Sunday evening. All the equipment is unpacked and checked, a brief summing up is done, and the boys go off home. During the following week the equipment will be dried, cleaned, and checked over ready for the next week-end expedition.

Mixing them up

The boys who enrol for a course commit themselves to attending every sixth week-end over the period of a year. They contribute £1 each week-end towards the running costs. A great effort is made to arrange a good mixture of boys in each group. One group, for example, contains two boys who are on probation, art student, grammar school boy, office boy, junior clerk and two apprentices. The boys are recruited with the aid of the local press, the probation office, schools, firms, and the friend-of-a-friend type of personal contact. Few, if any, of the boys on the courses could afford to pay an economic contribution for a week-end or to provide their own equipment.

Looking back over the first few months of the project, we feel it is succeeding, despite the numerous setbacks and disappointments. There has been a tremendous amount of hard work put into getting the scheme started, and there will be a lot of effort involved in keeping it running smoothly. We are in urgent need of a further £500 for the purchase of canoes, etc., and we will require at least £1,000 more to put the Group on a sound financial basis. We have confidence that this money will come as the value of the work we are doing becomes known and appreciated by people who realise that Newcastle has an urgent need today for activities of this kind.

Perspective

BOB KNIGHT

A review of "To Conquer Hate," a collection of sermons and verse by Tubby. Published by Epworth Press, 244 pp., price 16s., available from Headquarters or through any bookseller.

TOC H CAN be seen in too limited a perspective and its character not understood. The sermons and addresses of the Founder Padre, admirably compiled by Padre Ken Bloxham, should prove a rare guide. The earliest here, dated 1906, while admitting to indiscretion, claimed that the lay officers of the Church under thirty could be counted on the fingers of one hand. In the same address, in defining the Church of the future, it was given not three but four dimensions: "It will be one; it will be the people's Church." This Church of the future would have a moral sense independent of the world, with men fit to express it, and its missionary activity would not be a department, but its core.

One preoccupation of those years, which reappears in later sermons, was the inadequacy of the parochial system to serve mobile men. In one sense Christianity was too organised, in another not organised enough. For a family new to the district, the Church is still seldom prepared to help them find their place and put down roots.

Another concern of 1906 comes out again thirty years later in a sermon at Mirfield "We lost (in the sixteenth century) more than we could afford: the hold of the Church upon the weekday life and energies of the people. (This) is vital for it must be changed; the Church cannot desert the common life."

In Toc H, men have always been uneasy with undigested self-conscious religion. These sermons pass that test yet they are intensely centred on Christ. Out of thirty-nine sermons here (an appropriate number) those that are not about Jesus are about the Church or individual members of it who continue the extension of His eternal compassion into time and place where least expected.

A sermon on being His witnesses is not a call for speaking publicly or privately about one's conversion, but a demand for sharing practical sympathy and having a capacity for it. "You are in this place the hands and feet of Christ. Of course you are unworthy; but be at least obedient."

This is a timely publication, of high quality, by the press of the Methodist Church of sermons by an Anglican priest. Who will read them?

Anyone who wishes to understand Toc H might do so, and who is to say that but for the accident of a war these ideas would have been developed at Portsea and spread from there instead of Poperinge. They are characteristic Christian insights of men who have lived in the developing suburbs of the twentieth century. These men were challenged by a community life based not on agriculture and the rhythm of the seasons but on a relentless pace of commerce and industry and their Christianity had to come to terms with that.

Branch Executives Please Note

Your Branch premium covering Members Personal Accident falls due on January 1, 1964. The amount is 1s. 2d. per member for the year. Will you please ensure that this Insurance premium is sent to the Finance Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, before January 31. As this scheme is run at cost we cannot afford to send out individual reminders direct to Branches. This then is the only intimation. J.H.

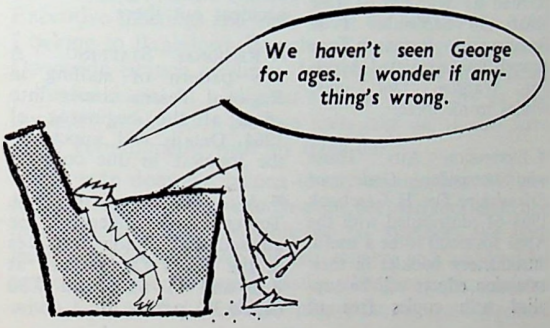
Youth Will Serve

W. R. ELLIOT
Schools Secretary

WHAT PRIORITY is given to 'Concern for Youth' in your Branch? Is it high on the list, or low? Or has it just no place at all? Very often, I am told, when this question is asked in conversation or at a Branch meeting by an interested outsider, the answer is: "Oh, that is all dealt with through affiliated Schools by Headquarters." But it isn't, you know. It can't be. There are tens of thousands of youngsters throughout the length and breadth of the country who have never even heard of Toc H. Less than 4 per cent of all the schools in the country are affiliated to Toc H. Only a few of them are round London or in the Home Counties. For the rest, an inclusive tour would take us as far north as Edinburgh, as far west as Colwyn Bay and as far south as Truro. Is it possible for Headquarters in London to be in close touch with an affiliated School, for instance, in Northumberland? Of course not, though we try. But it is perfectly possible, if its members are sufficiently concerned, for a Branch to establish a friendship with the local School and, through the Headmaster, to interest the boys in a local task for the community, even in term time and certainly in the holidays when the more ambitious project can be tackled. Such action by Branches, based on a deep concern for the real needs of youngsters—not the provision of more ¶ pocket money, better radio and TV sets, motor-cycles or cameras—but a call to "come over and help" in selfless, adventurous service for others, is badly needed all over the country. The Schools Section at Headquarters runs

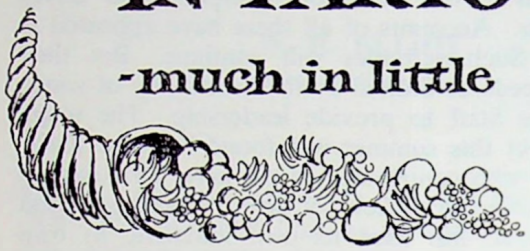
centralised activities. Schools work-parties at Dor Knap at Easter have become the regular thing. There was Spurn Point in the summer holidays of 1961, and Loch Eil and Morden Bog in 1962. There have been Loch Eil, St. Saviour's Parish in the slums of Liverpool, and Bovey Tracey this year. Accounts of all these have appeared in the JOURNAL. Such activities will continue. But their number must needs be limited by the availability of young members of the Staff to provide leadership. The tough Liverpool project this summer was found by West Kirby Beacon Branch who contributed to the party an Assistant Leader and a valuable nucleus of boys. Thank goodness for a Branch that has used its own initiative, its own sense of jobmastery, to spot just the kind of job that gives challenge to the best kind of schoolboy. It is this type of combined operation between Branches and the Schools Section at Headquarters which will give Toc H as a Movement its rightful place among those who clearly see the problems of the adolescent in these affluent days and, standing unequivocally on Christian solutions, are prepared to help him by every means possible to find the answers.

Ernie says:



MULTUM IN PARVO

-much in little



GEORGE ATKINSON has now taken up his staff appointment in South Wales and Monmouthshire Divisions. He and his wife, DOROTHY, who have proved such genial hosts at Dor Knap in the past three years, now live at "Melton", Llantwitt Major Road, Cowbridge.

C. J. (TOMMY) TRINDER of Barnet Branch and his wife DOROTHY have been appointed as Wardens at Dor Knap. In September IVOR BARKER of Ryton-on-Tyne Branch was appointed Assistant Warden. Our good wishes to all three.

EXTENSION AID. Those who consider *Code of Friendship*, Toc H Casebook 1963–64 (distributed with the April JOURNAL) to be a useful introductory booklet in their extension efforts will be supplied with copies free of charge on request so long as stocks last. The offer is conditional. They are not for Branch-room cupboards or shelves. They must be put into the hands of new friends.

WILF YOUNGS. It will be of considerable relief to his many friends to know that Wilf, now a member of our Services' Clubs Staff in Germany, has made a good recovery following his recent accident out there.

REGIONAL STAFFING. A new pattern of staffing in Regional Teams comes into effect at the beginning of 1964. Details will appear in the JOURNAL in due course.

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER. All concerned are advised that Sunday services in the Guild Church are at 8.30 and 11 a.m. and 5.30 (not 6.30) p.m.

Our Better Halves

BILL SMITH

I FEEL SURE there must be many chaps who feel they cannot give to Toc H all they should because they are married and are unsure of what time, etc. to give to Toc H without being unfair to their wives. When talking to them and I happen to mention what I will be doing in the next fortnight or month they often say, "I don't know how you do it." Somehow I feel I have achieved a balance so that both my wife and Toc H get 'fair dos'. In fact I believe getting married has helped me to lead a fuller Toc H life. Mary, my wife, does not belong to the Women's Association and yet in her own way is very much part of Toc H. Without her help and encouragement I could not do what I do. How is this 'fair dos' achieved? I hope these few remarks will help those who have this problem.

To begin with I had better put down my commitments. I am H.A.C. for Downshire Area and besides all the work this entails at home, I attend Area Guard meetings, Area Executive meetings and visits to all the units in the Area. I belong to Bankdown Branch and I also regularly attend Downside Branch meetings. My main Toc H job is being a 'foster uncle' at a children's home. I also try to take my part in the jobs the two units take on. I also have small commitments with my trade union.

My wife does not belong to any organisation. We are rather irregular in our church-going not even sticking to one denomination but invariably we go together. We both have a passionate love for the country and are fond of exploring the countryside, castles, abbeys, etc. Apart from when I am at Toc H all our leisure time is spent together.

The main trouble I feel is that too many wives think their menfolk are in a secret society. I feel that the men should tell their wives all about Toc H and why it makes them tick over so much better. Mary was well aware of what it meant to me whilst we were courting so there was no 'break' in my Toc H life when marriage came. Our wedding day was on a Saturday and we didn't go away on our honeymoon for a week so it seemed only natural for me to go to the Branch meeting on the Thursday and since then Toc H has grown into a natural part of our married life and not just something for me.

Toc H in our house usually starts on a Sunday morning at breakfast when we discuss what I have got on in the following week. Mary then knows whether I will want any of my meals early. It would be unfair to dash in at 5.15 p.m. and say, "Where's the grub? I have a Guard meeting." We also discuss what's on in the programmes. Whenever I come in from Toc H it's only natural that the question, "How did the meeting go?", crops up. We always have a discussion on the meeting. I also try and make a point of taking my wife to any 'mixed dos' such as Guest-nights, etc. This gives Mary a chance to meet people whom I spend a lot of time with. Quite often too we have discussions on Toc H at Branch, Area and national levels. This brings out my hopes, breaks my frustrations and lets me vent my feelings when disappointed.

Married chaps in Toc H sometimes find themselves in a quandary because they have taken on too much. I always think before I say 'yes' or 'no'. For instance, before I took on the job of Area Chairman and then later H.A.C. I talked things over with Mary. This gave her an idea of what extra time I wanted, etc. This I feel is vitally important. Some chaps just cannot say 'no' and in some cases this has led to their leaving Toc H. I feel sure myself that if I was taking on too much or giving up too much time to Toc H, Mary would tell me as naturally as I tell her how Toc H want more of me if necessary.

If Toc H does have extra nights then in return I try and take Mary out somewhere special. This is not done as a peace offering. Toc H is a natural part of our lives and I know Mary would not like it if I used special treats as a bait to get extra Toc H nights.

To sum up, here are five rules I think will help:

1. Tell your wife what Toc H is.
2. Discuss Toc H with your wife and tell her in advance what your future commitments are.
3. Take her to all the 'mixed dos', Guest-nights, etc.
4. Know when to say 'no' to extra commitments.
5. Don't forget those extra treats.

(All the names in this article are disguised but the facts are authentic.—Ed.)

Christmas Parcels

W. V. AWDRY
Padre, Wisbech Branch

ON CHRISTMAS morning 1935, the congregation of St. Peter's, Wisbech were thinking comfortably of religious duty done, and the Christmas dinner they would shortly return home to, when the Vicar gave them a shock. He said that all in Church that morning were wasting their time. They would have been much better employed out and about in the town, taking Christmas fare to those who had none. That, remember, was in the days of the Great Depression.

Many were offended at this plain speaking, but two Toc H members present took it as a challenge. They buttonholed each other in the porch on the way out and said, "What are we going to do about this?"

They knocked at a grocer's door, and told him what they wanted, and why. They did the same with the owner of a toyshop, and that very Christmas morning before they went home they had taken parcels of groceries and toys to four poor families. Next year they distributed ten parcels. In 1937 the list had increased to 94. The following year as a result of a public appeal 205 families had gifts. To this end they had made a list of people, had begged and bought groceries, etc., parcelled them up and personally delivered them. This has been done every Christmas since then.

Working it out

The list, obtained from clergy, National Assistance Board, etc., grew so much that Toc H was unable to cope alone, so Rotary and Round Table were asked to join in, and at Christmas 1962 we personally delivered parcels of groceries to 250 homes of old age pensioners and others who are in special need in Wisbech. We spent four hours making up the parcels which each contained a rich assortment of groceries and a Christmas card.

The cost is shared among the three Societies, but we owe a great deal to the generosity of people in Wisbech and district, without whose help the parcels would have been smaller than they were.

Some give quantities of goods, and others allow us to buy what we need at wholesale prices. For instance, we advertised in the local Press for tea, hoping to be able to get enough to give each family ¼lb. The response was so good that we had enough to give each family ½lb. More than enough sugar was given too, enabling us to give a 2lb. bag in every parcel, and so it goes on.

Needless to say, the scheme needs careful planning and organisation which starts months beforehand. The minute attention to detail is sometimes tiresome, but it is abundantly worthwhile.

It has been said that Fen people are mean. Not a bit of it; our 'Christmas Job', as we call it, proves that.

FAR CRY
-overseas notes

Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

Tubby in Western Australia

OR SHOULD your reporter sub-title this, "The Thirteen Most Active Days of My Life"? They began in a crowded cabin of the Arcadia with the central figure talking to reporters, the Premier's representative finding the job of chief baggage supervisor, and hurried into a meeting with Sir Edmund Herring, Australian President, lunch and some meetings. This set the pattern for following days. Tubby was active, carrying a message that sacrifice should replace service, that manly Christianity was dominant, that the religious basis of Toc H must be strengthened.

One felt the dim lamp start to burn brighter with the challenge, and chaps suddenly feel purpose in their involvement in Toc H. Suddenly the status of the Movement showed true, Tubby singing "Oranges and Lemons" at the reception by the Lord Mayor of Perth and then telling of Toc H involvement in the East End, followed by a Cabinet Minister with a Toc H badge in lapel telling his gratitude for what Toc H had done for him; all this

gave us more friends in high places: and Tubby moving with all of us in presenting Lamps of Maintenance showed Everyman's Club at its best. Visits were made to Albany and Geraldton, to tankers and the large Kwinana Refinery of B.P., to Guildford Grammar School, Rotary Club luncheons, a picnic for children from an aboriginal settlement, and a Parliament House Luncheon.

Tubby has shown by his visit what a vast potential Toc H has in Western Australia, where it is expanding at a rate faster than elsewhere in the Commonwealth. We could do better. You can send names, U.K. address, and ship of arrival of members of Toc H to us at Toc H, Box E202, G.P.O., Perth. They can rejoin a Movement expanding at three or four groups a year. So fast does this grow and consolidate that the need for a near full-time Chaplain is urgent.

We were moving but Tubby has helped push us further.

Dr. JAMES WATSON.

Waiting at the Station

INDIA HAS some twenty million refugees all told; here in Bengal we have somewhere between two and three million. The Chinese attacks have diverted money and effort which would normally have been spent on improving general conditions, and as you know the longer a problem stays with you the more accustomed you become to it.

One of our special efforts will be the provision of a day hostel for students attending college in an area where a high percentage of the people are both very poor and living under substandard conditions. The need for proper study facilities is so great that we aim to provide a building where students of both sexes can study, have shower facilities, and buy subsidised meals. In about 90 per cent of the homes these students would not normally be able to study or bath, and could not afford a meal costing 6d.

My special responsibility is the refugees living in and around the Sealdah railway station, some of whom have

been there for ten years and almost all of whom have either been resettled or assisted by Government and have drifted back again. They are living in what observers from the World Council of Churches have described as the worst conditions of any refugees anywhere in the world . . . and I can well believe it. The Customs shed, booking halls, spaces between offices, almost all the station yard and the areas immediately surrounding the station, are one solid mass of hovels and people.

Our social section made a census and survey some time back; and when I say the social section I really mean Mrs. Jaya Gudgerat, a part-time worker who was trained in the U.K. and is first class. Very few women would even want to go near the place, let alone get right inside it, and of course a lot of the work had to be done at night. Sealdah just isn't the place you go at night!

There are 1,269 families altogether, some 5,000 people, of whom 2,865 work (and I have included beggars and every other type of income!) for an average of between 60 and 150 Rs. per month . . . per family. Rupees 70 is subsistence level, 100 living, and at 150 you become liable to income tax; and there are 14 Rs. to the pound.

The Government has promised us about 70 acres of land some 30 miles north of Calcutta and just on the edge of the urban sprawl, about half of it is suitable for rice or jute in the monsoon and garden crops in the dry season, and we think that we can house them on the rest.

Fortunately there is already a committee which represents pretty well the whole of the refugees. Their very misfortune has given them a solidarity and they realise only too well that they sink or swim together. I was able to have them all round to Russell Street to meet them all personally one evening. We were able to take them into our confidence, though of course the one thing that they wanted to know, the location of our new village, we couldn't tell them as we hadn't got a definite promise.

The budget for the complete resettlement of these people works out at £53 10s. per head and I think that this is about bed-rock. I have to persuade the railways to move the people free, the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Department to provide lorries between the railhead and the new site, and the people to make do temporarily with the present homes rebuilt until we erect new houses.

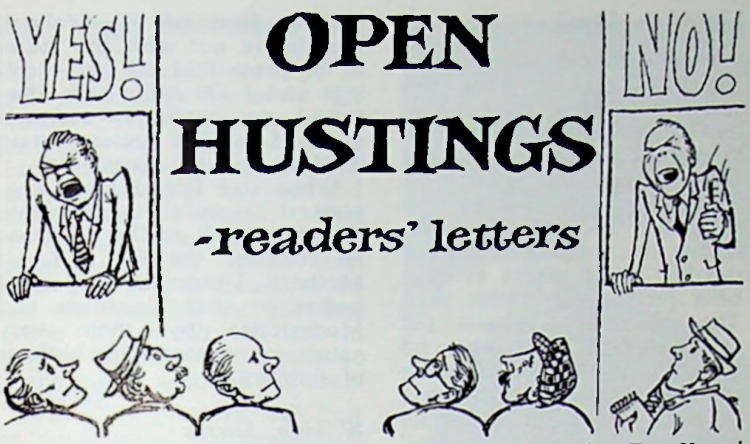
I need suggestions from members on the use of compost or manure to make gas. Could we from the nightsoil and town waste of a community of ten thousand make enough gas for a small factory? I've seen the Scottish system of composting and would welcome a copy of the book by Wylie, or the little Crabtree leaflets, if anyone has a spare copy. (Any offers or advice? ED.)

We are very lucky in having the co-operation of the Bengal Engineering College who have undertaken to make the survey of the land for us and to do the town planning. They have both an Architecture and a Rural Housing wing, and welcome the opportunity to give their students a real problem to bite on. They have a wide experience of low cost housing and will actually assist in the costing and supervision of building too.

Somehow we have to have these people moved and housed before the next monsoon, even if it means building half the houses first and double occupancy. The schools and community buildings, all of which are included in the £53 10s. per head, by the way, can be built next year.

FRANK FIELD.

Don't say brown
***– say* Hovis**



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

The Old House and Dor Knap

MY FIRST visit to Dor Knap clicked with the Continentals' Week John Callf wrote about in the October JOURNAL, and in this I consider myself fortunate. The eight young Belgians from Poperinge and district are a grand crowd of fellows, tremendously keen on all that is Toc H, and when we parted, no doubt was in my mind about the week's experience at Dor Knap being the outstanding episode of their life so far.

About a fortnight ago what I would call an Anglo-Belgian Rally was arranged at the Old House, when about seventy people crowded into the place for light refreshment and a showing of coloured pictures of the Dor Knap venture. It was a jolly affair and included the Belgian Dor Knap party and over thirty members of an adult evening class for English held in one of the Poperinge colleges under the supervision of Elizabeth Cornette, a Belgian member of the Toc H Women's Association. In general conversation at the Rally one gathered that the Belgian Dor Knap lads seldom cease talking about it and are counting the hours when they may have the chance of a second visit. Also a very deep impression made upon me was that of the sure closing of the gap between the Roman Catholics and us Protestants.

It is clear to me, who served in Flanders in World War I, that the spirit and atmosphere of the Old House in Poperinge and of Dor Knap in the Cotswolds are one and I hope that many more members of our world-wide Movement will make every effort to sample it at both of these places.

SID THRESHER.

Guildford.

Langdale Week

I WAS surprised when, as a guest at Langdale Week this year, which took place under the happy leadership of Alan Pooley, I realised that not every vacancy was filled.

This holiday among the mountains was truly enjoyable, despite the indifferent 'summer weather' which seems to have been pretty general this year. The accommodation was not luxurious and there were no frills, except perhaps the early morning 'cuppa' brought round by Jack Press, but I would without hesitation recommend Langdale Week to anyone who finds enjoyment in good companions, open air, walking and scrambling on the fells in such wonderful scenery. Even walking in cloud occasionally is quite an experience. Of course one has to rough it a bit and not to be downhearted if the weather is wet.

Next year's date is June 20-27 and I hope that all vacancies will be filled so that many others may enjoy the same refreshing holiday.

IAN D. WILSON.

West Kirby, Cheshire.

Why this Segregation?

J. K. DARE of Wymondham appears completely to have missed the point of my letter in the June JOURNAL.

Of course there should be joint Branches where Toc H can function better that way. I am privileged however to live in a town where there are separate Branches, both pursuing their own activities. Occasional joint meetings are held and co-operation between the two Branches is excellent. We should not wish the ladies to be present at all our meetings and I am quite sure they would not want to see too much of us. The present set-up is ideal so why disturb it?

When our friend Dare suggests it is sinful to segregate the sexes, well really!!! Does he consider the C.E.M.S. or Mothers' Union to be sinful bodies or that Convents and Monasteries by their very nature are of necessity hotbeds of iniquity?

A. J. SEYMOUR.

Woking, Surrey.

Federation

THE HON. ADMINISTRATOR propounded to the South Western Area Conference meeting at Westward Ho! on September 28 a scheme to federate the South Wales, Western, South Western and Southern Areas into a Western Region for the purpose of re-deploying Toc H staff. This scheme has much to recommend it. There are many knotty points which the four Area Secretaries could discuss, which have now to be referred to Headquarters, thus freeing H.Q. London to attend to the general welfare of the whole family of Toc H.

This scheme should be looked at dispassionately, hammered into shape and made to work. Area Secretaries are lonely folk. The Areas should look across their boundaries, I almost wrote frontiers, and see how they can co-operate with neighbouring Areas. At present they are too much like little self-governing republics!

(Padre) C. R. S. ENYS.

Falmouth.

Rev. Hugh Sawbridge, M.C.

THE WHOLE family of Toc H and particularly those in the Western Area, remember with gratitude the influence which 'Sawbones' had in the lives of many men both within and outside the Movement. Many of us had the privilege of learning directly from him what Toc H was meant to be and the essential and practical means by which we should help in fulfilling God's purpose in the minds and wills of men.

While his memory will best be perpetuated by the efforts for Toc H of those he taught, it has been proposed that a Sawbones Memorial Fund be launched. The form this Memorial may take must depend upon the response, but the intention is that it should be directed to furthering the influence of Toc H among young men, work which was so dear to his heart and to which he devoted his ministry.

Apart from those still active in Toc H there must be a great number of senior men who would acknowledge the impact he made upon their lives and would wish to associate themselves with this appeal.

Contributions may be sent to either Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3, or to the Western Area Centre, St. Andrews Road, Montpelier, Bristol 6.

The fund will close on February 29, 1964 and a decision on the form of the memorial will be published in the JOURNAL as soon as possible after that date.

DOUGLAS GREEN,
Bristol. CYRIL ROWLEY.

The life-boat service is supported ENTIRELY by voluntary contributions. Your donation may help it to save someone's life.

Send donations to:
ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION
42 GROSVENOR GARDENS
LONDON S.W.1.
Treasurer:
The Duke of Northumberland, K.G.
Secretary: Stirling Whorlow, Esq.

RNLI

Skelmorlie Send-off

REG STEWART

THERE IS nothing very novel about a presentation of a Lamp to a new unit but Sunday, October 20, somehow seemed a different sort of occasion. Some seventy members from as far afield as Largs, Ayr and Prestwick, Paisley, Neilston and Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling, congregated at the North Church, Skelmorlie in Ayrshire, where Dr. Donald C. Caskie, O.B.E. presides.

Donald Caskie has been a Toc H Padre for many years but that is only part of his claim to fame. When the last war broke out he was Minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris and his exploits from then on until the end of the war are admirably recounted in his book *The Tartan Pimpernel*, and were once featured in television "This is Your Life."

Morning service was taken by Dr. Caskie, and in the afternoon Jim Findlay, Scottish Chairman, presided over a short and impressive ceremony when Lyndsay Orr presented the Lamp of Maintenance to the new Branch. Twenty members of the new unit, including their Padre, who has done so much towards the formation of this Branch, were present to receive their Lamp.

After the presentation, two playlets, the scripts for which were devised by Bob Leslie, were enacted by Edinburgh and Largs Branches. Edinburgh skilfully brought out such questions as, "What are the main aims of Toc H?", "How tolerant is Toc H in religious and moral matters?", "Is

Toc H too casual in its approach to finance?", and "Is there a Party Line?", and the Largs members, under their Chairman, Alistair Brown, with typical Toc H lack of formality, cleverly and apparently spontaneously, produced a number of practical answers to the problems posed by the 'struggling' Edinburgh group. No less than 75 members were present for this part of the day's activities. A little light entertainment was interspersed amongst the playlets by two members of Skelmorlie Branch accompanied by pianist Mr. Taylor.

A new unit is born—a healthy, thriving infant who has got off to a good start. May he soon have more brothers and sisters in the Ayrshire/Renfrewshire neighbourhood.

"Starting Up"

Being announcements of places where new units are beginning, with the address of the local 'key man' or other person to whom all correspondence or commendation should be sent.

Aberdeen. Key man: Alex Mair, 45 Westburn Road, Aberdeen.

Ashby, near Scunthorpe. Key man: Barry Spalding, 14 Hunt Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

Bloxwich, Walsall. Key man: Keith Dando, 36 Evesham Crescent, Mossley Estate, Bloxwich, Walsall.

Mareham-le-Fen. Key man: Stan Sumner, 20 Revesby Corner, Mareham-le-Fen, Boston, Lincs.

Melrose, Borders. Key man: Joseph Jeffreys, Glen Cottage, Huntlyburn, Melrose.

Upton, near Poole. Key man: John Howarth, 691 Blandford Road, Upton, Poole, Dorset.

Worplesdon, c/o I. A. Hunt, 31 Alexandra Road, Aldershot, Hants.

Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

AVERY.—On May 22, GEORGE M. AVERY, aged 68, a member of Guelph Branch, Canada. Elected 1935.

BRADSHAW.—On September 27, ISAAC HENRY BRADSHAW, aged 48, a member of Great Harwood Branch. Elected 17.5.'49.

DEAN.—On March 2, JOSEPH DEAN, aged 56, a member of Bilston Branch. Elected 1.7.'60.

FOSTER.—Suddenly, on October 22, COLIN LIONEL WILLIAM FOSTER, aged 54, a member of Andover Branch. Elected 7.1.'60.

GOODLAD.—On September 28, JOHN WILLIAM GOODLAD, aged 89, a member of Andover Branch. Elected 1.12.'53.

GOULD.—On October 5, LESLIE PHILIP GOULD, aged 63, a member of Abingdon Branch. Elected 13.3.'53.

HALL.—On September 26, ARTHUR CHARLES HALL, aged 57, a member of Kingston Branch. Elected 13.9.'60.

HAYWARD.—On September 30, ARTHUR JOHN HAYWARD, aged 52, a member of Trowbridge Branch. Elected 1.7.'37.

HEDGER.—On October 20, HERBERT H. HEDGER, aged 65, a member of Worthing Branch. Elected 20.10.'63.

HUNTINGFORD.—On August 27, EDWARD HUNTINGFORD, a member of Charleroi Branch. Elected 29.2.'40.

KEMP.—On October 12, HARRY KEMP, aged 77, a member of R.H.H.I. Branch. Elected 19.1.'50.

MACINTOSH.—On October 7, ARNOLD MACINTOSH, aged 51, a member of Loughton Branch. Elected 12.11.'35.

McDERMOTT.—On October 8, GEORGE WILLIAM McDERMOTT, aged 55, a member of Wood Green & Devonshire Hill Joint Branch. Elected 10.9.'58.

RODGERS.—On October 21, ERIC WILLIAM GEORGE RODGERS, aged 58, a Lincolnshire Area member. Elected 30.12.'48.

In Memoriam

GEORGE M. AVERY

ON MAY 22, Toc H in Canada lost one of its most faithful leaders, GEORGE AVERY, who died, aged 68. After serving with the Canadian Army in France during World War I, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943. Throughout his 28 years' membership in the Guelph Branch, George's whole heart and soul were given to Toc H. He, more than anyone,

with his indomitable spirit and courage even while suffering bad health in recent years, was responsible for maintaining the active, enthusiastic service of the dwindling membership of this, one of the few surviving Canadian Toc H Branches. Guelph members will long retain their memories of George's unfailing generosity, his ever present desire to help the less fortunate, and, above all, his sense of humour. All these qualities, throughout his long illness, he never lost.

A.H.B.

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900 feet down

NEVILLE HUSBAND

*"HAAD ON TE THEE gallasses lads. Silk stockin's, corsets, women's bits an' pieces next floor doon." These words were shouted, not by a lift porter, but by a man dressed in dirty blue overalls with a dirty face and a hard miner's hat, for nine members of Durham City Branch were about to descend 900 feet into the earth to see for themselves what the Durham miner has to face when he goes out to work.

The 'cage' dropped quite swiftly down with its occupants (nine visitors and three officials), the feeling of being balanced in a very thin box on a long wire is in itself an unusual experience and as we dropped I could not help thinking of the ten men who had been injured the previous week in another colliery when the cage got out of control.

However, we landed safely at the bottom of the first seam. What a rare and peculiar sight we must have looked, for we were all dressed in either old jackets and trousers or overalls, some with big boots, some with old shoes and others with wellingtons. We each had on a miner's helmet and an electric lamp fixed to the front, with the battery

*Keep tight hold to your braces.

tied rather uncomfortably round our middles with a belt or in some cases an old piece of string.

Whenever I had thought of going down a pit I imagined that my first impression would be complete darkness, but when we stepped out of the cage we were met with a flood of light. Strip lighting hung from the roof and the hewn stone walls were white-washed. Of course you could not forget that you were 900 feet down a pit because the tubs (trucks) full of coal reminded you of this fact.

Here we were split up into groups of three and my group had as its guide the training officer. His job is to train the young lads who start on this very hard, but important, career as a miner.

We branched off from the main tunnel and left behind us the bright lights of the shaft bottom. Now there was no doubt at all that we were in the pit. The walls were rough, packed with stone and steel girders; wooden props held the roof which I thought was going to topple any minute.

In the dark

Bill told us to stand still and switch off our lamps and he switched his own off also, even his Davy safety lamp which he uses to test for gas. He had done this to show us what darkness was really like. We couldn't see a thing and our eyes could never have got used to it because there wasn't even a small amount of light coming in. Bill said that many miners have been left in the dark and have grabbed hold of a pit pony's tail and let it lead them to the shaft. It is certainly an experience I would not like to go through. With our lamps lit once again we made progress sliding about on the muddy floor and now and again splashing through pools of water and as we walked further 'in by' (the expression used for going into the pit) coal was being pulled out in the tubs on small gauge railway lines by the endless wire rope. We came suddenly to another larger tunnel branching off at right angles to the one we were in and here we saw the conveyor belt which brought the coal from the 'face' and dropped it into tubs.

Bill signalled for us to join him and go down this second tunnel. We walked for a few yards then we started to go down a steep bank, further into the earth following the endless belt as its sound echoed around the precarious stone walls and roof; now the going wasn't so easy, it was much wetter and the floor was uneven. Then suddenly I saw three lights ahead, here we were at last at the coal face and the three lights turned out to be three of the men who were working on the face. They had been down about three hours and were preparing the machinery for the next shift of men who would come in. They were moving forward part of the conveying belt so that it was near enough to the coal face.

Crawling along

It wasn't so much the men now that took my attention, it was the coal face itself, the main tunnel that we were standing in was called the 'Mothergate', on either side of this was a smaller tunnel, cut exactly the height of the coal seam and 2-2½ feet high, it was in this height that men had to crawl and get the coal out. Bill invited us one by one to crawl in. The tunnel was held up by wooden and steel props, I could hardly crawl in on my stomach and I could imagine what it would be like with automatic drills and shovels making a noise and raising the dust. The dangers were obvious to me and I wasn't at all sorry to wriggle out backwards into the 'Mothergate' tunnel.

We swopped one or two jokes with the three men who were still hard at it and then we started on our journey away from the 'face'. I looked back and saw the lamps of the men getting fainter and fainter and then as we turned a bend they disappeared and darkness once more was all that I could see. I now realised just how much a bag of coal was worth, not only the eight shillings or so that we pay but much more when measured in men, danger and hard sweat.

FROM ALL PARTS

SOUTH WALES

Hats off to YSTRAD MYNACH, a small Branch with an average attendance of eight men, situated in the mining valley north of Caerphilly, who decided to take action in the matter of publicity for the B.B.C. Appeal on September 22. Home-made stickers were hand-printed (stencil method) drawing attention to the Appeal and these were handed out to Branch members and their friends with the request that they should be stuck on any or all correspondence posted up to the date of the Appeal. A local grammar school Arts Master came to their aid with bright ideas of a window display. A Hair Styling Salon window, well known for its artistic decoration was chosen and cleared for Toc H purposes and all the material sent down from Trinity Square was used. The Press were very generous in their allotment of free space during our campaign. The "Western Mail & Echo" sent along their Mobile Office (a trailer) for use as operational headquarters, which proved an asset in many ways, chief of which was the Balloon Race. The lads of the Branch excelled themselves in their powers of persuasion and the gas, the balloons, the local printed matter and the loan of a plot of land were given free. Up to the time of writing there are people at Exmouth, Devon, and at Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, who now know there is a Toc H Branch at Ystrad Mynach. Any purchasers of balloons who showed a slight interest in Toc H were given a *Toc H Builds On* brochure or a bookmark.

The next step is a buffet tea as a means of meeting 'prospects' by invitation. The Branch will endeavour to get likely people to their social gathering and tell them of the joys of being in Toc H. They hope thus to 'Build On' what they have shown of Toc H enthusiasm.

R. I. JARMAN.

Hednesford members with some of the Luton Girls Choir

WEST MIDLANDS

HEDNESFORD Branch organised a concert recently in aid of the local Freedom from Hunger Campaign and managed to get the services of the Luton Girls Choir. The girls sang beautifully to a packed audience and it is expected that at least £100 will be given to the Campaign as a result. This job was a real challenge, as the sixty-two girls, Mr. Davies the conductor and his wife, together with the two coach drivers, had to be fed on their arrival, billeted overnight with local families, and conveyed back to the starting point on the Sunday morning. A fleet of cars did this, and a great deal of goodwill was shown towards Toc H in the way the local people responded to requests to take two girls each into their homes after the concert, and give them bed and breakfast. All the people have said they would be prepared to do exactly the same if we will get the Choir to come again, and the girls say they would like to return.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD Branch organised a Gymkhana and Fete on behalf of the North Cotswold Group and returned a profit of nearly £100. Their winter programme will attempt to continue the series on Christian Unity so badly interfered with by last winter's weather.

BEWDLEY Branch received its Lamp of Maintenance at the hands of the Administrative Padre, Bob Knight, on September 13, so the new Severn Valley District which began the year with two Branches already records a fifty per cent increase!

J. TREVOR EDWARDS.

Jos Denys shows his Dor Knap slides at the Continentals Week Reunion in the Old House (see Open Hustings)

NORTHERN

It has always been something of an academic exercise to find an answer to the question, "What would you do if six young people walked in to your Branch meeting and asked for jobs of service to do?" This has happened on a rather larger scale when upwards of sixty students of both sexes of a Technical School on Teeside have asked just that. The flutter in the Jobmasters' dovecotes is a real one as Branch service tends to be limited to Branch membership strength. The opportunity however is also real and indications are that within a short time these offers will be absorbed in the variety of jobs done by Branches on Teeside. It is a sufficient hint to Branches to look beyond their own horizons to discover the social welfare needs of their localities and the opportunities these present in drawing in folk, particularly young folk, to meet them. RICHMONDSHIRE District is in the process of harnessing help offered by schoolboys in their undertaking to put the grounds of the Red Cross Holiday Home for the handicapped at Morris Grange, near Richmond, in order. This long term effort was undertaken by the District as a Jubilee Year job of service. The possibility of establishing a joint Branch in Darlington is good; an inaugural meeting held on October 20 showed much promise. The Branch's 'Saturday Club' for patients from Aycliffe Hospital had an outing to Seaburn recently. GROVE HILL put on a wrestling match in Middlesbrough in September, the proceeds of which were shared between the Branch and the British Epilepsy Association. ASHINGTON Branch

gave a tea party to fifty local old people, thus fulfilling a promise to a local auctioneer and Methodist preacher who died three years ago. He left £10 to the Branch to be used for this purpose after his death. Padre John Larter, Oxford & Thames Valley Area Padre, was a recent visitor to the Area, when he attended a meeting of Teeside District Officers and also conducted a training evening at Redcar for Branch Officers in CLEVELAND District. WEST HARTLEPOOL and SUNDERLAND Branches, with help from members in SOUTH SHIELDS, combined to put on a large games and social gathering for the deaf and dumb in Sunderland in November.

LES WHEATLEY.

Steptoe and Son? No, Brian Clarke and Albert Merry of Broughton Astley Branch at the local gala

Leicester Evening Mail

BEDS. & HERTS.

A tremendous vote of confidence in our Annual Men's Area Rally was given by the large attendance this year in LEIGHTON BUZZARD. Our 'Do it all ourselves' programme was a great success: firstly the original sideshows in the afternoon, plus Bill from 'North Sea Branch', top hat, skin diver's flippers, Colt 45 and bowler hat to rob us of money for the Dor Knap bursary. In the evening, after a sumptuous meal, BLETCHLEY'S interpretation of Branch life was magnificent, an eleven men sketch getting some home truths across whilst keeping us in fits of laughter. Our Speakers' spot, for many years stereotyped, took a completely new shape as two Leighton Buzzard men sat in a cafe and talked to three very different cafe clients about Toc H. First class conversation pieces from Geoffrey MacEntegart, David Preshous and Ralph Thorne. Jack of all trades during the day, Harry Tapsell, led his team in 'Philip Speaks', as a final meditation. Great work all round from all the Leighton Buzzard members, our hosts.

The WOLVERTON Dinner this year, with even more guests in evidence, was graced with speakers such as George Davis, Hon. Administrator; Freddie Petch, Area Chairman, and the chief speaker was the Senior Scout for the County. Sydney Swain's efforts over his 25 years as Builders' Secretary were rewarded with a fine turnout again of over a hundred men. The guests of honour were Scouters from all over the county, a delightful tribute to the Movement we work so closely with in many places.

BEDFORD Branch sponsored a very sensible idea in one of their monthly meetings for the older residents, in the communal room of two blocks of flats in the town. The panel consisting of a Doctor, an Alderman and another member of the Council and the Manager of the Local Assistance Board were bombarded with questions, needing expert answers, from the old folk assembled.

RAY FABES.

LINCOLNSHIRE

After a most successful year with the enrolment of many new Builders through the efforts of Sydney Swain, attention in the Area this year has been turned very much more towards actual buildings. Some years ago the members at SUTTON-ON-SEA acquired old Coastguard Rocket Station premises and began to convert them into a very fine meeting room. Their desire was to hand the premises over in first-class order to the Movement, and so, this year, with the addition of insulated walls, a new floor and adequate heating arrangements, the transfer of the premises to Toc H Inc. has been completed. To the west, and at about the same time, WEST PINCHBECK Branch had acquired a rather derelict Chapel and began a conversion job, ultimately producing a sizeable and comfortable meeting place. A close liaison was built up with the local Youth Club, then without premises of their own. This year, with a substantial grant from the appropriate authority, the whole of the previously disused upper storey has been converted into the meeting place for the Youth Club, and inevitably the link between the two will be considerably strengthened in the days ahead. A major project has been the construction and erection of a new Cedarwood 'home' by SCARTHOE Branch. Faced with the obvious fact that receipts from whist drives, garden parties, shows, demonstrations and donations would be insufficient to purchase the required building, the members got stuck into the task of building their own headquarters. A local farmer loaned them a large barn for the preparation of the timbers whilst the foundations were being dug and prepared on the site adjoining the local Scout H.Q. in a very central position. The building, a real asset to the community, is now up and nearing completion. It will be shared with the local Old People's Club as well as providing a first-class meeting place and workshop for the local Branch. In addition, for the first time for many years LINCOLN have acquired their own premises at a fantastically low rental, so adding to the growing number of units in the Area which can claim to have a 'home' as opposed to just a place to meet..

GEORGE LEE.

Guernsey Press

Cyril Cattell and Fred Brooker with members in Guernsey

SOUTHERN

On the evening of October 28 a large congregation of Toc H members and friends gathered together at St. James' Docks Church, Southampton, for the dedication, by the Bishop of Southampton, of the Memorial to 'Inky' Bean. This takes the form of a set of four kneeling rails and a Bishop's chair. Later the Ceremony of Light was held in the Chapel of Talbot House. The congregation was headed by Mrs. Bean and her family, and Padre John Bean read the Lessons. The Bishop spoke of the many years of service that Inky had given to Toc H and of his devotion to his church, where he was Churchwarden until he died. The Bishop used some words written by Padre Harry Devis. "The character of some men is most complex; not so with Inky. Straightforward, faithful, loyal and kind, he was every man's friend. Many men and boys of the Merchant Navy know how much they owe to his fatherly influence. He was a devoted Christian."

Talbot House WIMBORNE, the property of the local Branch, is put to many good uses, apart from serving as a meeting place, and practice centre for their Toc H Male Voice Choir. A recent example is the Harvest Supper that was given for forty-five members of the Dorset Association for the Disabled. After supper the guests were entertained by the Choir. Of course all this could not have happened if it had not been for the ready co-operation of the Women's Branch under the cheerful leadership of Mrs. Moody.

On Guy Fawkes night the Marksmen of MARK V, Southampton, entertained fifty spastic children to a firework party and supper.

FRED BROOKER.

EAST ANGLIA

Over seventy members attended the second Area Week-end of the year at Overstrand. Johnnie MacMillan travelled from the West to add to the proverbial wisdom of the men in the East *(sic)*, and John Alcock, East Midlands Area H.A.T., had most of the answers and some new suggestions to contribute during a session on finance. Johnnie's challenging talks, in which he called on members to study and meet the real needs of people rather than provide what they want, contributed to what many have described as the most forward-looking Week-end held so far.

Ely group had the happy idea of asking a young girl from the Red Cross School for Spastic Children to open their Gala. She was supported by all the children from the school and a profit of £66 was realised. NORTH WALSHAM Branch also raised £66 at their Autumn Fair towards the Freedom from Hunger Campaign which they launched in the town. Little more than £100 is needed now to reach the target of £1,000. Their latest and youngest member sold 340 tickets before the Fair.

The Mayor and about 40 residents were present at a Social Evening arranged by SAFFRON WALDEN Branch at the Council's Four Acres homes for elderly people. The Branch had the co-operation of Round Table, the British Legion and the local Activity Club.

REG SMITH.

SCOTLAND

Padre John Gingell from London has been recently in Scotland, giving accounts of his work in the South London Industrial Mission to members in Dundee, Nairn, Aberdeen and Tillicoultry. What he told us was deeply significant and in some ways depressing, but nevertheless it is to our advantage to have a first hand account from someone like John who is really immersed in the industrial problems of South East England.

TILLICOULTRY Branch, in the manner which we have come to expect of them, organised a Garden Fete to raise money for Branch needs and the Family Purse. The Fete was opened by Bob Leslie our H.A.C. and member of Central Executive, and was blessed with glorious weather. The highlight of the afternoon was the exhibition of motor-cycle riding given by the Royal Corps of Signals Display Team from Catterick Camp.

Melrose group continues to grow and recently invited other Border Branches to a meeting in the local Hydro to hear the well-known historian, Professor Hugh Trevor Roper, who described his investigations into the circumstances surrounding the last days of Hitler in Germany, the subject of his well-known book.

The many friends of Eric Milton, formerly of Dundee and Broughty Ferry Branches, will be pleased to know that Eric is now settled into a three-fold Charge at Rosehearty near Fraserburgh, so extension in Buchan is now more than a possibility. Toc H members travelled from Dunfermline and Stirling to be with Eric on the day of his induction.

REG STEWART.

EASTERN LONDON

The eight Branches in the SOUTH EAST ESSEX District are fortunately situated in so far that it enables them to exchange visits each month by holding District Guest-nights. The host Branch provides the speaker and hospitality and by the time this is in print Basildon, the newest group in the District, will have done their stint.

The first A.G.M. of the group was held on October 17 when the Chairman, Doug Green emphasised the vital necessity to maintain regular attendance of members at Branch meetings and succeeded in getting the presence of two reporters from rival local newspapers with a view to the publication of facts that Toc H must start now to work on doubling the membership by 1965. It is not too much to ask that 30 new members can be persuaded to join Toc H out of a population of 50,000. PERCY PERRY.

Coalville Times

EAST MIDLANDS

COALVILLE Branch recently launched a Young Pensioners' Club on Wednesday afternoons in their Branch headquarters. Membership, which costs nothing, is growing week by week, and the pensioners organise their own activities. Some take part in a variety of indoor games, while others prefer discussions and reminiscences. The Club is undoubtedly meeting a long-felt need in the town. In the above photograph 'Skipper' Emmerson, a Vice-President of Toc H, is watching a game of crib.

COLIN STEVENSON.

North Wales Weekly News

Waldi Fikerte, recently initiated into Colwyn Bay Branch, is only the fourth Ethiopian to become a member

WEST YORKSHIRE

The East and West Yorkshire Conference 1963, held at N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Camp, Cayton Bay, was a huge success. Speaking on the amalgamation of men and women into one Toc H, Elisabeth Worth, Women's Association Overseas Secretary, spoke with real conviction and down-to-earth reasoning for this necessary step forward. It was felt by the gathering that the lead should come from Headquarters.

In the evening we had Simon Allard, billed by some wag as the angry young man of Toc H. I know Simon will agree with me when I say that for a time he was not the only angry man of Toc H, though in all fairness I must say he spoke well and appeared to appeal to the younger ones; they thought he was 'with it'. Eventually we agreed he had something to offer Toc H and we wish him well.

After lunch Mrs. J. Cliffe for the women and John Maddock for the men gave the low-down on what is happening in Toc H Yorkshire. This was very heartening for there is quite a lot of activity in the field of expansion and extension. The ladies had the idea of having a Northern 'Martha', and the men a Northern 'Dor Knap' which, thanks to Bob Purdy, is far more than an idea.

The highlight of the week-end was the afternoon with, now, our own Bob Purdy, who spoke of the fundamental issue of Toc H, where the real work and the real meaning of Toc H was to lead, and the part we would have to take. He gave us it good and proper; Bob has really made his name in Yorkshire. There are many names I could mention and much more I should say, but I do say that Toc H Yorkshire thanks all those who helped to make it such a wonderful week-end, and we look forward to meeting again next year.

FRED THREADGOULD.

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Journal Smalls

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HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

BRUGES, BELGIUM. Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city are offered good accommodation and excellent meals in a very friendly atmosphere at HOTEL JACOBS. Within easy reach of coast and other famed Cities of Art. English spoken, strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr. Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, 1 Baliestraat, Bruges, Belgium.

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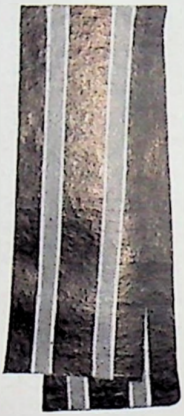

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